1: Linton E-5 (1926-27) 1933 FY8 Tanala FY8

from reign to reign. The most influential of the royal *Anakandriana* were called the *Anakandriambe*. 646

ELECTION OF THE KING

The following account of the election and investiture of an Ikongo king is quoted from the manuscript of Sadaro Antoine: "When a king had died the *Anakandriambe* summoned all the *Anakandriana* and *Notables* of the two castes in the kingdom to choose a new king. The *hovalahy* [nobles] assembled in one house and the *vahoaka* in another. The commoners deliberated as to who should be king and when they had decided went to the house where the nobles were assembled and designated for the office the one they liked best. This man was separated from his comrades and taken to a house in the corner of the village. There he stayed, rarely going out, until he was invested with office. A few days after the election the whole population constructed a large house, the *trano be*, or *lapa*, to be the royal residence. 643

"On a fortunate day selected by an *ombiasy*, everyone went to the village of the new *Mpanzaka* to celebrate his solemn entry into the *lapa*. About noon all the *Notables* entered the house where the future king was. The *Anakandriambe* placed the *satro mena* [a red hat with a tassel] on his head, dressed him in an *akanjo jaky* [a dark red garment like a long shirt or smock], a *lamba mena* [shoulder blanket of red silk], and *samboritra lamba mena* [shawl of red silk]. They placed a silver necklace on his neck and a silver bracelet on his right wrist, and gave him a *tehim-bolofotsy* [long ebony staff encrusted with tin or silver] to carry. When everything was ready the king seated himself on his *filanzana* [carrying chair] which was usually the house door, and the *vahoaka* carried him to the royal house. They formed a procession with the chief *Anakandriambe* first, then the king's wife, on foot, then the king, followed by his escort of *Notables*, etc., and then the whole population, singing. They sounded conch shell trumpets and fired guns. The young people sang and danced to the *sodina* [flute] and *draitra* [a variety of large drum]. A public fête was organized in the village. Before entering the royal dwelling the king, followed by the population, walked around the house three times. Each time he arrived opposite the east side of the house he halted and fired a shot in the air. The first shot was in honor of the king, the second in honor of the *Anakandriana*, and the third in honor of the people as a whole. If the first shot failed to go off, it was a bad sign for the king. He would have a misfortune 643 527 643 527 787